

DD/A 76-2289

6 MAY 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Richard Lehman

FROM : John N. McMahon
Associate Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Bundy's Letter

Dick,

1. Your first page reads well, and after that I'm of the opinion it goes downhill. I believe you are too apologetic, too condescending and certainly not representing "the mainstream" of the talent we are getting into CIA.

2. On your page 2, I would refrain from commenting on the editorials or news content of our newspapers. Even though this is intended to be a personal letter, you never know where it ends up. I guess I also take issue in any acknowledgment that the mainstream of today is what Bundy is referring to as the mainstream from his myopic viewpoint.

3. Re the last paragraph of page 2, I think a good deal of the United States is concerned with more pressing needs of a domestic variety rather than defense and foreign policy, but after all, World War II was 35 years ago.

4. Re page 4, I think you would be well advised to blend some comment in there regarding the Agency summer intern program. The statistics are very impressive. You may recall that the program is designed to attract students in "foreign studies" at the graduate level. This year we had 642 well-qualified candidates from which 74 were selected. History has demonstrated that about 50% of those selected will end up staff employees.

5. Re page 5, we seem a might too apologetic about "covert and operational" and "clandestine" activities. I believe they are good and wholesome products of CIA's effort.

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6. The middle paragraph on page 5 is just plain, dead-wrong. We are getting far better caliber of people, and since I was hired in the 50's, modesty doesn't force me to say it. The qualifications of the applicants, their experience and education far scoped what we were glean- STATINTL
ing from our recruiters in "the good old [] days." Your parenthetical comment regarding Congressional staff work, I fear, leaves the impression that somehow good people are attracted to that career. Our past 15 or 16 months in dealing with the Senate and House Select Committee staffers offer a very convincing argument that caliber they don't have.

7. In summary, I think you are trying to be too nice and amenable to Bundy's viewpoint. He is out of touch, out of date, and we shouldn't pamper him. Let's just let the facts speak for themselves. We are a better Agency now talent-wise than we've ever been and we ought to be proud of it.

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John N. McMahon

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Acting General Counsel

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

6 May 1976

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Mr. Richard Lehman
7E44 Headquarters

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Dick:

I would not dare to suggest improvements in this literary masterpiece. However, at a morning meeting the Director indicated that Bundy was representing an establishment viewpoint that the best people come only from certain schools and the Director was critical of this point view. In view of that, do you think it would be better to leave out the words "the very best schools." My politically astute colleague, [redacted] has a comment on a more sensitive point in that same sentence. Shouldn't we refer to the "very best people" rather than the "very best men"?

Acting General Counsel

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